

From: richard
To: cloweth@mac.com@inetgw
Date: 11/19/01 11:17am
Subject: Microsoft case

The government and attorney generals were wrong to try and tell Microsoft what belongs in an operating system. Most people are happy to have a web browser included with a computer. The government has no business making decisions about what features go into an operating system.

Where Microsoft does cross the line, is doing things to make it difficult for others to make applications work on windows. Digital camera manufactures need to have their products work just as well as something from Microsoft.

What the attorney generals and the Feds need to do is take a close look at AOL and their proprietary messaging system. This smells a lot more like use of monopoly power.

The attorney generals and Feds also need to get the politics out of who get looked at for antitrust - when Larry Ellison and AOL can through a lot of money around and get a company sued by the government, something stinks. Now Microsoft has to through money at politicians too - the net result is more corruption in government and poorer products and government sanctioned cartels.

The Wall Street Journal had a good editorial recently about how the attorney generals were using the Microsoft case basically to advance their political careers. I think that the attorney generals need to resign - or find something more useful to do.

rp

--- Christian Loweth <cloweth@mac.com> wrote:

> Hi,
>
> I posted the following on several forums last week as well as many
> Users Groups and the response has been encouraging. Please feel free to
> share this info among friends/colleagues if you wish.
>
> Should Microsoft receive harsher penalties?
>
> I am very disappointed with the Feds proposed settlement. Fortunately
> nine states' AG's agree with me. I have sent the following to the
> states' AG's dissatisfied with the terms of the USDOJ settlement
> agreement.
>
> "It seems to me that Microsoft has indulged in not only anti-trust
> violations but racketeering as well. Is this a possible avenue of

> approaching their abuses?"

>

> As you can see, my position well exceeds current prosecution parameters.

> Even if you don't agree with my extreme position, but desire more

> vigorous prosecution, I urge you to write to the Attorneys General to

> inform them of your support. You dont have to reside in these states to

> write them. Write to all of them if you wish. The Attorneys General

> exist to provide services to their constituency. I believe that for the

> most part they take this responsibility very seriously. They want to get

> the bad guys. It is my opinion that Microsoft, Gates, Ballmer, et al,

> are the bad guys.

>

> Below are the email addresses of the nine states Attorneys General

> dedicated to continuing with more stringent anti-trust prosecution.

> Included is USDOJ address to express your displeasure to the Feds. For

> international readers I have included a link to a USDOJ website listing

> other countries who are undertaking anti-trust action.

>

> Please include your name and address. This contributes to your

> authenticity. They may want to send you a snail mail confirmation.

> Please put it in your own words. And keep it brief. They understand the

> issues, so you don't need to re-hash them. It would probably be most

> effective if you stated that they press on with their lawsuit to impose

> maximum penalties.

>

> A formulation was made years ago by various entities like newspapers,

> magazines, politicians, and such. They figured that for every person who

> bothered to write to them represented X amount of people who didnt take

> the time and effort to write but shared similar opinions. X can equal

> anywhere from one thousand to ten thousand depending the specific

> circumstances of the recipient. So, as you can see, the simple act of

> writing can have a multiplier effect. Thats why your single

> contribution is so important.

>

> If you agree that Microsoft has gotten off too lightly, I plead with

> you to take a few minutes, write to the Attorneys General and make your

> opinions known. When were all using Microsoft Windows at least youll

> be able to console yourself by knowing that you at least tried to resist

> Microsoft hegemony.

>

> This is the time to strike. They believe that they have hornswoggled a

> sweet deal. Their guard is down, if just a bit. This is far from over.

>

> California: microsoftcomments@doj.ca.gov

>

> Connecticut: attorney.general@po.state.ct.us

>

> Florida: ag@oag.state.fl.us

>

> Iowa: webteam@ag.state.ia.us
>
> Kansas: GENERAL@ksag.org
>
> Massachusetts: tom.reilly@ago.state.ma.us
>
> Minnesota: attorney.general@state.mn.us
>
> Utah: uag@att.state.ut.us
>
> West Virginia: consumer@mail.wvnet.edu
>
> US Dept of Justice-Microsoft anti-trust comments:
> Microsoft.atr@usdoj.gov
>
> US Dept of Justice-other sites worldwide:
> <http://www.usdoj.gov/atr/contact/otheratr.htm>
>
> This is a real opportunity for those of us who want more stringent
> prosecution. Before, Microsoft had only to have one team of lawyers to
> deal with the Feds. Now, their efforts will be diluted by virtue of
> having to confront nine different government entities. The time to
> express your opinion is now. Together we can have a positive impact on
> the future of computing if only we take the time to express our opinions
> to those who hold the public trust.
>
> Best regards,
> Christian Loweth
>
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Do You Yahoo!?
Find the one for you at Yahoo! Personals
<http://personals.yahoo.com>

CC: Microsoft ATR,microsoftcomments@doj.ca.gov@inetgw,...